

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: South Carolina	
COUNTY: Richland	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:

First Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:

First Baptist Church

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1306 Hampton Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

COUNTY:

Richland

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

First Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:

1306 Hampton Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE:

South Carolina

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Richland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

1401 Sumter Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:

1960

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:

Library of Congress Annex

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The First Baptist Church building was erected in 1859 (architect unknown). The building has a Roman Tuscan portico and Tuscan pilasters down the sides, all rendered in molded brick. The building, before additions, was approximately 56' wide by 84' long, with balcony down each side and at the front over the entrance vestibule. In 1941 the rear wall was removed, pushed back, and the church extended 35'. At that time the proscenium arch was replaced with a rectangular proscenium of great width to allow for an adequate choir and baptistry. The original high pulpit and steps with carved volute flankers were retained and pushed back to the new location. In 1949 the exterior walls of the side aisles under the balcony were removed and 15' side aisle seating provided. The old upper wall and pilasters are supported on steel columns, encased in fluted Doric wood columns, matching the original work. During the 1941 alterations the building was completely air conditioned.

The brick of the building was painted a dirty brown around the turn of the century. During the 1949 alterations this paint was carefully removed, exposing a range of colors from light tan to dark pink.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1859

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The First Baptist Church was the scene of the first southern state convention to declare its separation from the United States of America--an act which ultimately led to civil war. The delegates assembled here on December 17, 1860, and unanimously declared their intent that the State of South Carolina should secede from the Union. This act of separation, coming from a State of leading political prominence, carried an immediate momentum throughout the Gulf States and Georgia, inducing them to declare their own separation. This momentum for secession was not unopposed. In every state convention outside South Carolina, a determined minority stood out for delay. Four States--Arkansas, North Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee--did not make the break without the further inducement of the fall of Fort Sumter. The dilatory minorities who counseled delay might have been majorities in a few critical cases. However, South Carolina's precipitate action demanded a test of the theory of secession. Many Southerners who may have regretted South Carolina's action were put on the spot. If they did not come to the support of their sister State, South Carolina might be compelled to return to the fold thus discrediting the doctrine of secession.

Although the convention met for only one day at Columbia and signed the State's Ordinance of Secession only after reassembling in Charleston, the intent of the State's political leaders was clearly and publicly declared at the First Baptist Church in Columbia.

History

In the early part of the decade prior to the Civil War, the Compromise of 1850 emerged from the great debates designed to settle the question of slavery that divided the country. The Compromise seemed to be holding together and party leaders rigorously avoided talk of slavery, favoring discussion of industrial and territorial expansion. But hopes for sectional tranquillity were fleeting. The Fugitive Slave Act played into the hands of northern antislavery radicals. Abolitionist reaction to the Act convinced many Southerners that northern public opinion was implacably hostile to their way of life. Southern proslavery "fire-eating" radicals were pleased by this turn

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Journal of the Convention of the People of South Carolina, Charleston,
Evans and Cogswell, Printers, 1861.

Channing, Edward, A History of the United States, Vol. VI, New York,
Macmillan Co., 1937.

South Carolina: A Guide to the Palmetto State, Work Projects Administration,
New York, Oxford University Press, 1941.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		34 °	00 ' 20 "	81 ° 02 ' 00 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Benjamin Levy	
ORGANIZATION Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service	DATE 1/9/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE D.C.
	CODE

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the Na-
tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law
89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion
in the National Register and certify that it has been
evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set
forth by the National Park Service. The recommended
level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

(Continued)

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of events which strengthened their secessionist influence. In both sections emotions began to outweigh reason and patience.

The Kansas-Nebraska Act shattered party alignments and led to severe political polarization of the great regions of the nation. The Act led to the emergence of truly sectional party allegiances. Following the election of 1856 it was clear that the new Republican Party could eventually capture the presidency against solid southern opposition. President Buchanan tried vainly to suppress the slavery issue. However, the American people would not be distracted. The Supreme Court offered no acceptable opinion and the Dred Scott decision fomented further estrangement of the sections. The Panic of 1857 stifled the Nation's prosperity which earlier served to mask the sectional controversy. The southern cotton market escaped the depression and Southerners began to believe that their economy was better off separated from the Nation.

In 1858, Republicans captured the House of Representatives and further obstructed Buchanan's policy of appeasement. In 1859 southern efforts to revive the international slave trade, coupled with John Brown's assault at Harper's Ferry, greatly inflamed animosities. Crisis followed crisis until, in the minds of many, the supreme test of union would be the election of 1860. The Republican appeal was clearly sectional--Lincoln's victory a minority success. The question now was, would the South withdraw from the Union because of the election of a "black Republican."

The deep South answered yes. This time the secessionists were ready and organized. South Carolina, known for the prominent secessionist sympathies of many of its leaders, acted first. The legislature had remained in session throughout the national election and immediately afterward summoned a convention.

On Monday, December 17, 1860, the South Carolina Convention of the People met in the First Baptist Church in Columbia. The convention gave the chair to D. F. Jamison who stated the case for South Carolina and the rest of the seceding states as well as it was ever stated: He declared that the members of the convention were determined to cast off the yoke of the Federal Government and adopt new safeguards for their security. He warned his colleagues to be wary of conciliation and that efforts to preserve the Union would prove fruitless.

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8. Significance

(Continued)

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After a brief recess, the following resolution was moved--"That it is the opinion of this Convention that the State of South Carolina should forthwith secede from the Federal Union, known as the United States of America." The delegates voted unanimously in favor of the resolution, 159 to 0. At the time, the smallpox was raging in Columbia and the convention voted to reassemble at Charleston. On December 20 the formal Ordinance of Secession was adopted unanimously and signed by the entire delegation.

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